

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process of allowing a patient to have limited input access to their electronic medical record, the method comprising of the steps of: ~~of forming a basic patient medical record in a computer application through entry of information using a machine-readable questionnaire, a scanner, and a computer application;~~

a) providing the patient with a machine readable questionnaire concerning the patient's ~~their~~ medical history, ~~their~~ environment, ~~their~~ symptoms, or other pertinent information for answering by the patient;

b) interfacing the machine readable card with a scanning type machine to convert the patient's written answers to a data stream;

c) arranging the data stream into a defined ~~set of~~ data structure simulating the protocol structure from a party having authorization to export data to the patient's medical record; and

d) sending the formatted data to an assigned location for importing into the patient's medical record. ~~record;~~

2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ the step of forming a basic patient medical record in a computer through entry of information using a keyboard ~~is accomplished~~ by a professional staff member.

3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ the step of forming a basic patient medical record ~~is accomplished~~ by the patient in providing the ~~this~~ information by written responses on the questionnaire.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the ~~step of providing the patient with a machine readable questionnaire concerning their medical history, their environment, their symptoms and other pertinent information includes the step of providing the patient with a medical questionnaire including~~ includes questions concerning the systems making up the human body with designated locations for patient responses and is accomplished by a member of the clinical staff. ~~This questionnaire may be provided within the medical facility or mailed to the patient.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the step of interfacing the machine readable card with the a scanner to ~~convert the patient's written answers to a data stream~~ includes the step of interfacing the machine readable card with a scanner type machine and is accomplished by a member of the clinical staff.

6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of wherein the ~~step of arranging the data stream into a defined set of data structure simulating the protocol from a party having authorization to export data to the patient's medical record~~ includes the step of the invention converting and arranging the data stream to a defined set of data structures simulating the protocol of Health Level Seven (HL7).

7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of wherein the ~~step of arranging the data stream into a defined set of data structure simulating the protocol from a party having authorization to export data to the patient's medical record~~ includes the step of the invention converting and arranging the data stream into to a defined set of data structure structures ~~simulating the~~ according to a protocol of ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials).

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving the formatted data with an interface engine ~~wherein the step of transferring the protocol-arranged data into the patient's electronic medical record housed in a database includes the steps of using an interface engine which receives the protocol-arranged data from the location specified by the user and sending it to a~~ the database containing the patient's electronic medical record.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2 wherein the computer ~~processor~~ is a standard PC microcomputer and the keyboard is compatible with the computer therein.

11. (Original) The process of claim 4 wherein the machine readable questionnaire is a paper answer sheet comprised of questions with designated areas for patient responses.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The process of claim 9 wherein said database is any database that accepts HL7 or ASTM messaging.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6 wherein the step of arranging the data stream into a defined set of data structures ~~structure~~ simulating the protocol from a party having authorization to export data into the patient's electronic medical record includes the step of ~~the application supplied with the invention~~ accepting the data stream from the scanner and arranging the data stream into a defined set of data structures simulating the HL7 specification.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 8 wherein the computer ~~process~~ is a standard PC, with at least 32 ~~mg~~ megabytes of hard drive space and a processor capable of operating at 100 MHz speed.

18. (New) A method of supplementing a medical record with information submitted by a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from the patient a machine-readable printed form containing information about a health status of the patient;
electronically scanning the printed form to convert the information to machine-processable data and communicate the data to a computer;
formatting the machine-processable data with the computer so that the data is in a form that may be communicated to an electronic medical record that is personal to the patient;
communicating the formatted data to an electronic medical record interface and adding the information to the patient's personal medical record; and
presenting the information to a physician as part of the patient's personal electronic medical record.

19. (New) The method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
mailing the form to the patient prior to the appointment; and
presenting the patient's electronic medical record to the physician, including the information from the printed form, before the patient visits the doctor to apprise the physician of the patient's health status in the patient's absence.

20. (New) A method of supplementing a medical record with information submitted by a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from the patient, prior to a visit with a physician, a machine-readable printed form filled out by the patient and containing information about a health status of the patient including the patient's medical history, environment, and symptoms;

electronically scanning the printed form to convert the information to machine-processable data and to communicate the data to a computer;

formatting the machine-processable data with the computer so that the data is in the form of a Health Level Seven laboratory record, wherein the laboratory record includes the information from the printed form and information identifying an electronic medical record that is personal to the patient;

communicating the formatted data to an electronic medical record interface engine to automatically add the information to the patient's personal electronic medical record; and

presenting the patient's personal electronic medical record to the physician during the patient's visit with the physician, wherein the electronic medical record includes the information from the printed form.

21. (New) The method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the steps of: mailing the form to the patient prior to the appointment; and

presenting the patient's electronic medical record to the physician, including the information from the printed form, prior to the visit to inform the physician of the patient's health status.